

DOG PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND FUNDRAISING UNDER WAY

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut – July 22, 2006.

After initial division over the fate of the Yale Divinity School Dog Park, the Saint Ronan Street neighborhood, New Haven Community Dog Park Cooperative, and Yale Divinity School have resolved that the park will remain open and have begun constructing substantial renovations to the park. The productive negotiations were mediated by Dean Harold Attridge of the Yale Divinity School.

With the expert advice of Urban Resources Initiative director Chris Ozyck and summer intern Suzy Oversvee, the community developed a design that responds to neighborhood concerns about the noise and appearance of the park. The design was finalized by Yale architecture grad student Sara Stevens after two community-wide meetings and consultation with a turf expert and an experienced landscape architect.

The design includes extensive but inconspicuous changes to the land to redirect water and control erosion. The features of the plan include a low hedge along the street to absorb sound, a community board for announcements and park rules, dog-safe flowering and fruit-bearing plants, free-standing stone benches, a water spigot, and a double gate to facilitate bark-free entering and exiting of the park. The centerpieces of the park are a Golden Weeping Willow Tree, a brick-lined sitting area, and a brick walkway. Long-term goals include replacing the dilapidated chain-link portion of the fence and pioneering an eco- and neighborhood-friendly means of disposing of dog waste.

On July 13, Dean Attridge enthusiastically approved the design and volunteered to buy all of the front hedges for the dog park. Between pledges and funds, the Cooperative has raised approximately \$3000 in the last month, and has a goal of raising \$15,000 by the end of the summer.

For a \$100 donation we will order an engraved brick with a customized inscription to commemorate the generosity of donors. The bricks will be installed in the community sitting area and along the walkway. All donations are appreciated!

All donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to URI, with “dog park” in the memo area, and sent to Allie Perry, 247 St. Ronan Street, New Haven, CT 06511. Each donation will be earmarked for the dog park, and we will send a note confirming the donation is tax-deductible. To donate, simply download a donation form at <http://nhdogparkideas.pbwiki.com/f/donations.pdf> and follow the form's instructions.

On Saturday, July 29, at 11 AM, we will plant a centerpiece of the park: a Golden Weeping Willow Tree. All are invited to this community event, and we would be happy to answer any and all questions about the dog park.



**NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY DOG PARK
COOPERATIVE**

Urban Resources Initiative Community Greenspaces

Thank you for your interest in the Park!

The New Haven Community Dog Park Cooperative was created this year to help maintain and manage the St. Ronan Street Dog Park. This year we are undergoing a major rehabilitation of the park, the extent of which depends on the amount of money we raise! With the help of the Urban Resources Initiative's Community Greenspace Program, we have developed the design you see on the back of this sheet. Aspects of the design to be phased in over a number of years, are detailed on the reverse. We want to create a more beautiful park for neighbors, park users, and of course the dogs!

Please make out checks to "URI" (Urban Resources Initiative) and write "dog park" in the memo. Please send checks to:

Allie Perry, 247 St. Ronan Street, New Haven, CT 06511

All donations are tax-deductible and earmarked for park improvement. Thank you for your generosity!

Help us build with bricks!

We are planning a brick-paved seating area and walkway, and have initiated an engraved brick program for donations of \$100 or more. The paving stones are 8" by 8" and will help to build our community area. Please fill out the following form and send it in with your check if you are interested in creating a brick in your name. You could engrave your family's name, the name of a pet, or perhaps memorialize a deceased pet.

Your Name: _____

Your engraved text (6 lines, 20 characters per line): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please note, if you donate a multiple of \$100 and would like additional bricks, include a note on this page with the additional text to be engraved.

